

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew T. Myren, Esq.  
324 East Liberty Street  
Barrington, Illinois 60010

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am a resident of Barrington, Illinois. My home, where my family and I have lived for 11 years, is one longish block from the railroad tracks that run through Barrington. I recently heard that Canadian National Railway Company had proposed a project that would bring at least 15 more trains per day down those tracks. This announcement alarmed me greatly. I became even more concerned when I heard that this estimate did not account for large increases expected in train traffic throughout the Chicago area over the next 20 years. The drastic increase in daily noise, traffic (including traffic that may redirect through our neighborhood, putting our children at risk), the danger of our four boys, ages 1 through 11, crossing the now busier tracks, and our own issues in getting through town (to grocery shop, drop our kids off at school, go to exercise, drive to work, etc.) will affect my family's quality of life and the quality of the environment in my community.

As an attorney, I commute (usually by car, but also by bike and on foot) to my company's offices, which are around ten miles southwest of Barrington. I cross the E, J and Y tracks as many as four times in my daily commute-longer and more frequent trains could turn this relatively tranquil, bucolic route into a nightmare of delays and frustration. My wife also drives our children to school north of town, with a crossing over the tracks at either Hough Street/Route 59 or on Northwest Highway/Route 14. Both of these crossings are on high traffic roads that will be gridlocked for miles due to more frequent and longer trains running through Barrington. The resulting frustration and inconvenience will have a material, negative impact on our daily lives and on our property values. It is not hyperbole to say that the character of our village is at risk.

I have been informed that you are responsible for reviewing Canadian National Railway Company's proposal. I think that the effects I discussed above warrant serious consideration before you allow Canadian National to move forward. You hold the safety and well-being of not only my family, but that of an entire region in your hands. I trust that you and the rest of the Board will thoroughly review Canadian National's proposal for any and all effects on the environment and affected communities. Please do not approve this proposal until you are certain the environment of the Barrington area, including the ambient noise level, our air quality (both from additional trains and the additional car fumes and exhaust from traffic delays caused by the additional train traffic), the safety of our children crossing the tracks and dealing with more cut-through traffic, will not suffer.

Thank you for your close and careful study of this major issue. We are very concerned and are counting on you to do the right thing and protect the environment of this wonderful community.

Sincerely,

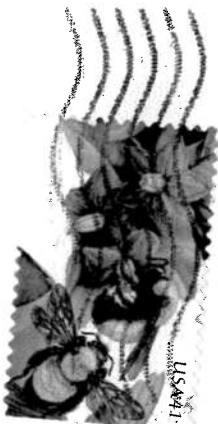
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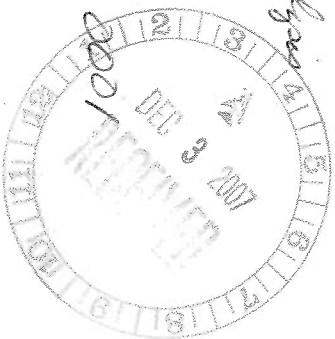


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